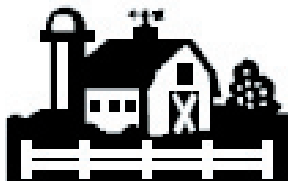


SMALL FARM EXPO 2004

Where can Puget Sound-area small farmers and rural landowners go to get the latest information on livestock, crop and resource technologies, land management and more? The Small Farm Expo! While other events around the Northwest cater to the general public, the Small Farm Expo brings together vendors, agencies, and other specialists to provide information and services specifically for agriculturalists and landowners with small-acreage.



On March 27th, the 3rd annual Small Farm Expo at the King County Fairgrounds in Enumclaw featured events and activities that connect small-scale land owners and their families with knowledge, practical applications and tools for managing their land. In addition to providing technical resources, the event showcases local agriculture and increases public awareness about the importance of our region's small farms. Many fun activities for children were available as well.

Small Farm Expo Priority Goals:

- Provide small-scale producers and landowners with a venue to exchange ideas with specialists in their field.
- Supply agriculturalists and rural landowners with a variety of local vendors.
- Showcase 4-H youth leaders and their animals.
- Increase public awareness and appreciation for local agriculture and small-scale farming.

Small Farm Expo 2004 brought more than 1000 people to the King County Fairgrounds, despite a wet morning and a grey day. Attendees had the opportunity to meet specialists in the areas of livestock production, crop production, and landscaping as well as talk with representatives from many different King County and State agencies that provide education to the public. The public also had the chance to attend incredible animal demonstrations including horse vaulting, dog herding, and pony driving. The presentations on landscaping were a new addition to the Small Farm Expo this year, covering subjects such as natural lawn care, landscaping for wildlife, and water-wise gardening.



Herding Dogs Wait Their Turn
Outside The Covered Arena

Photo D. Meyer



The Redwing Vaulters Show Their Stuff

Photo D. Meyer

This year's expo featured several special events.

Sheep to Shawl Demonstration

Attendees had the opportunity to see the entire shawl-making process. Baby alpacas stood by as spinners carded, spun, and wove alpaca fiber into beautiful shawls.

4-H Poultry Show

Participants in the 4-H program were given the chance to showcase their beautiful birds in the 4-H Poultry Show. Thirty breeds were on display for people interested in animals for their small farm.

Presentation by Henning Sehmsdorf

Located on Lopez Island, Henning and his wife are well known around Puget Sound for running an economically sustainable small farm. His talk focused on how to maximize resources while producing a wide variety of products.

Putting Tools For Success In The Hands Of Small-Acreage Landowners!

PUBLICITY AND SPONSORSHIP

Event flyers were widely distributed at libraries, community centers, feed stores, and various other public places during the months leading up to the expo. In addition, press releases detailing the highlights of the day were distributed to local and regional newspapers, radio stations, and TV stations. Publicity included a pre-event article in the Practical Gardener section of the Seattle Times and event coverage was reported in the Capital Press.

Given that the Small Farm Expo is free to the public, support from our sponsors was essential. This year our sponsors included King Feed, Jennings Equipment, and Horse Deco Jewelry. Also important to the success of this event were the hundreds of hours donated by more than 30 volunteers and the help we received from the staff and maintenance team at the King County Fairgrounds.

SUCCESS!

Over 1000 visitors from more than 7 counties took advantage of 20 educational talks, 16 demonstrations, 20 animal displays, and more than 36 vendor booths. Of the attendees that filled out our survey, more than 97% found the event useful and would like to see it continue. Below are just a few of the positive comments we received from visitors.



Budd The Norwegian Fjord Receives Some Love

Photo D. Meyer

"The variety of vendors and organizations was excellent and impressive. Keep it up."

"All the information I received was useful."

"This is better than the July fair!"

"I learned a lot about native plants and helpful garden bugs."

"This was a wonderful event and I will definitely spread the word to friends."

-Small Farm Expo Attendee Comments

Initiated by King County in 2002, the Small Farm Expo has grown in attendance every year of its existence. WSU King County Extension, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and the King and Pierce Conservation Districts are committed to the Small Farm Expo for the unique opportunity it provides producers to connect with their community and learn new tools for success.

For more information on the Small Farm Expo, including full program listings from the past two years, visit our webpage at www.metrokc.gov/wsuc-ce/farmexpo or call 206-205-3206

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A Happy Small Farm Expo Attendee

Photo D. Meyer

